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SUBJECT: INITIAL TESTS POSITIVE FOR BOVINE  
SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) IN CROATIA

The Ministry of Agriculture announced at a press conference February 16 that three initial tests on a five-year old cow were positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The cow, from a farm in eastern Croatia, was asymptomatic and was tested as standard procedure (by regulation, all carcasses from cows aged 30 months or older must be tested for BSE). Samples have been sent to the reference laboratory in the UK for confirmation and results are expected early next week. Ruminant feed containing meat and bone meal (MBM) has been banned in Croatia since 1997 and in 2001 MBM was banned from all animal feed.

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